

RED CROSS READY TO END MEXICO PLAGUE

When Carranza Gives Word,
Surgeons, Nurses and Medi-
cines Will Be Rushed.

BRITAIN HALTS SUPPLIES

The spread of a typhus plague through Mexico and across the Rio Grande into Texas was one of two leading topics discussed at a meeting of the executive committee of the American Red Cross held yesterday afternoon at the home of Robert W. de Forest, vice-president of the American Red Cross, at 7 Washington Square North.

Dr. President Taft, chairman of the executive committee, presided. In addition to the problem of cooperation between the American Red Cross and the Mexican Government, the committee discussed the forwarding of hospital supplies to Germany and her allies, persons for which have been held up by Great Britain for several weeks.

Inasmuch as Secretary of State Lansing and the Carranza Government have not yet concluded their negotiations regarding the possibility of the American Red Cross taking a hand in the Mexican typhus plague, it was not possible for the committee to decide in detail the action to be taken by the American Red Cross.

The information received by the Red Cross from Mexico, Mr. de Forest said after the meeting, "made it plain that typhus fever, which has existed for several months, had assumed alarming proportions, creating a situation somewhat similar to the recent situation in Serbia. At the meeting today the following resolution was adopted:

"That subject to the necessary permission from and cooperation of the Mexican Government the American Red Cross is prepared to send to Mexico a competent corps of physicians, sanitarians and nurses to combat the present epidemic of typhus fever in Mexico and to cooperate with the Mexican Government and Mexican physicians to that end."

COAL SUPPLY GROWS SHORT.

Fuel Arriving Goes Into Immediate Consumption.

The Coal Age says: "Anthracite supplies of hard coal at distributing centers are reduced to a point where daily arrivals are going into immediate consumption, and energetic measures are occasionally necessary to keep consumers from running short. All attention at the moment is concentrated on getting tonnage forward with the utmost dispatch."

"Bituminous—The spectacular advance of the past week has caught producing and distributing centers off their feet, and consumers have been unable to keep pace with the market. Speculation is rife, brokers turning over tonnage daily at unprecedented profits, and this condition will persist until the carriers solve the transportation riddle."

"Exports—The sharp flurry and anxiety regarding supplies in the domestic market have displaced all interest in the offshore business. While vessel rates have apparently not increased any further, tonnage is more difficult to obtain and practically everything in the coastwise market has been covered."

CATHOLIC PRELATE MISSING.

Patriarch of Jerusalem Not Heard From for Six Months.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
Rome, Dec. 24.—The Vatican is very anxious concerning the fate of Mr. Camille, Patriarch of Jerusalem, who has not been heard from in six months. The apostolic delegate at Constantinople has been asked repeatedly for news of the patriarch, and he replied that communications with Jerusalem have been cut off.

Recent reports have said that the Turks and Germans were making strong forces in Jerusalem for a drive on the Suez Canal. This is believed to have been the cause of the severing of communications with Jerusalem.

PEACE SOON, POPE HOPES.

Adds to the Litany in Response to Many Wishes.

London, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict, replying to the Christmas address of the Holy See, extended on behalf of the Sacred College by Cardinal Vannutelli, feelingly alluded to the "terrible war in Europe" and spoke of the an-peace prayers and wishes as unprecedented in history.

The pontiff again expressed an ardent desire for peace, and said that in conformity with the wishes of many of the faithful he had resorted to add the words "Queen of Peace, pray for us" to the litany of Loreto, and expressed the hope that the Virgin's intercession would soon bring an answer to his wishes.

Pope Benedict's reply to Cardinal Vannutelli's greetings was delivered on the occasion of the reception by the Pontiff of the Sacred College.

Woman Leaps to Death in Hospital.

Miss Anna Silvernagel, 28, was instantly killed early this morning when she leaped from a private ward on the fourth floor of St. Mary's Hospital, St. Vincent Avenue, Brooklyn. She was the wife of Joseph Silvernagel, who runs a saloon at 179 Ambrog Street, Brooklyn. Mrs. Silvernagel was suffering from pneumonia.

BRITAIN HUNTING VILLA FOR MURDER OF BENTON

Will Ask U. S. to Give Him Up to Trial—Ex-Leader
Trying to Slip Away to Safety
in Argentina.

St. Paso, Dec. 24.—The British Government is looking for Gen. Villa. Homan C. Myles, British Consul in El Paso, is trying hard to locate him.

Extradition of Villa from the United States or Cuba for the killing of William S. Benton, a British subject, in Juarez in the spring of 1914 will be asked.

Gen. Villa is suspicious of the offer of protection from the United States Government. He has said that only on the condition that Gen. Hugh L. Scott meets him at the border and guarantees his safety in the journey through American territory will he come out of Mexico.

Gen. Villa is preparing the way for his arrival in the Argentine Republic, according to Government advisers here. Gen. Medina, after the battle of Agua Prieta, in upper Sonora, in western Mexico, saw his final defeat, was demoted on a secret mission, to look over the situation in the South American republic on the matter of the extradition. Federal authorities have been told.

Lot Holmes, closely allied with the Villa brothers in the packing business, has followed Gen. Medina on the mission of paving the way for Villa's return to Argentina. George Holmes, his brother, has followed within the past few days in his wake.

If Villa remains in Mexico his objective for the present will be by way of Sinaloa to Oaxaca State, where he will attempt to join anti-Carranza forces there for a move into the southern interior of Mexico, making for Mexico City.

Gen. Canuto Reyes, one of Villa's most trusted chiefs, has been heard from since he darted south through Torreon and the Laguna district, presumably for Guadalajara, over a month ago. Gen. Villa may try to make a junction with him in Oaxaca State.

The Americans kidnapped by the

Villista troops from the Babicora ranch of William Randolph Hearst and his mother in Chihuahua are P. Keane, P. S. Black, William Evans and Richard Wagner.

A conference of all the chieftains of the former Villa forces who had surrendered to Carranza here met with Gen. Obregon and Consul Garcia this morning and agreed to hold themselves subservient to the Constitutional Government and to accept as military leaders any man appointed by Carranza.

Gen. Obregon announced after the meeting that Gen. Trevino, in command of the Carranza campaign in Chihuahua State, is chief of military operations at this time.

Gen. Isabel Robles, it was announced would superintend the gradual muster of the former Villa forces. He enlisted troops and commanders would be shipped south.

Gen. Obregon received a message from his cousin in Chihuahua, city, Senora Barbara Palacios Obregon de Valencuela, telling him of Villa's holding Obregon's brother as protection for Villa's relatives in Mexico, Senora Valencuela wired Gen. Obregon as follows:

"Just before Villa left Chihuahua city I had an interview with him with the object of securing the release of Francisco Obregon, my cousin and your brother, whom I had tried to look out for while he languished in Villa's prison. Villa offered to liberate Francisco provided that you agreed to guarantee his relatives in Mexico full protection for their lives."

Gen. Obregon's reply was: "Tell Villa that whether he liberates or assassinates my brother, my action would be the same. His relatives will come to no harm from me provided there is no justified cause to proceed against them."

Col. Hipolito Villa, brought back from San Antonio on a charge of swindling, was released and failed to furnish bond to-day and spent the night in jail. Other suits have been filed against him.

BILLION MORE IN THE NAVY PLAN HIDDEN BY DANIELS

Continued from First Page.

consideration: This addition is believed by the board to be within and practically at the limit of the facilities at present existing.

Four battle cruisers, four dreadnoughts, six scouts, thirty coast submarines, seven fleet submarines, twenty-eight destroyers, six gunboats, two fleet submarines, four fleet oil ships, one supply ship, one transport, one hospital ship, one repair ship, one aircraft service (lump appropriation), \$5,000,000.

Personnel.

"Eleven thousand men. This number will provide for the needs of the present ships of the navy including those nearing completion, but it must be borne in mind that the personnel, commissioned, warrant and enlisted, will have to be increased as the new construction progresses."

"Increased facilities for the navy yards and shore establishments generally, such as drydocks, berthing, erecting shops, structural shops, cranes for handling heavy weights, shop machinery, ammunition and other storage facilities, civil personnel, etc."

"George Dewey." "The two reports published as appendix A and as appendix B in my annual report," said Secretary Daniels to-day, "and the above report of July 20 constitute all the reports of suggested building programme made by the General Board this year."

WOOD NOW HOPEFUL.

Thinks the Public Will Indorse General Board's Scheme.

Henry A. Wise Wood, who resigned from the Naval Advisory Board, expressed his satisfaction last night over the fact that at last the original programme of the General Board of the Navy, which Secretary Daniels suppressed, had been made public.

He is confident that when this programme is studied by the public, there will be an insistent demand throughout the country and in Congress for its adoption and for the rejection of the programme submitted by the Administration.

Commenting on the explanation made by the Administration that Secretary Daniels substituted for "economical reasons" his programme, Mr. Wood said: "The General Board of the Navy, Mr. Wood said, after reading the despatches from Washington, that 'the Administration still seems wholly unaware of the dangers from abroad which are arising and which are growing everywhere throughout the country that steps shall instantly be taken to make us invulnerable to attack.'"

He charges evasion. "The Administration, he says, is evidently trying to escape as cheaply as possible the responsibilities which the public has brought to this country, not only in diplomatic but in financial ways as well, and is postponing everything that involves action or the expenditure of money to an indefinite date."

In this spirit, he said the programme of the General Board was tucked away out of sight, and even the board's modified programme was emasculated in such a way that the country would be left at the completion of the programme about where the country is now—in the position of approximately fourth naval power.

Mr. Wood has been making his fight upon the principle that the United States should be restored to the position of first naval power. He said that the United States should be restored to the position of first naval power, and that the United States should be restored to the position of first naval power.

Of Mr. Daniels' action in suppressing the board's programme Mr. Wood said that it is evident Mr. Daniels thought his party would be unwilling to spend the money involved to carry out the recommendations of the board and so substituted his own judgment for that of the people and acted without giving them the trouble of exercising their own judgment.

The Monroe Doctrine. In delivering an address recently upon the Monroe Doctrine Mr. Wood brought out a point which has a direct bearing upon the present controversy when he said that unless this country were to become an armed camp it is necessary to enforce the Monroe Doctrine and prevent the establishment upon this hemisphere of new colonies and a military base by any of the European nations.

This, he declared, can only be avoided by the possession of a navy which shall be strong enough to prevent the violation of the Monroe Doctrine and the

delivery upon the soil of Central or South America of a European army. Mr. Wood also criticized the wholly inadequate aeronautic programme of the navy, which contemplates the addition of but seventy-five aeroplanes, in the light of information that as some 1,189 men may be maintained at the navy, which are employing from 1,000 to 3,000 aeroplanes each.

In conclusion, Mr. Wood said that the country has suddenly failed to realize the problems of which he believes it is wholly devoid the grasp of the "President, whose attitude toward that of a disturbed literary gentleman who is making with belated surprise through academic spectacles at a misbehaving world."

LEAVE FOR INTERNED GERMANS

Sailors Will Be Allowed to Attend Christmas Services.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 24.—For the first time since October 12, when five officers of the interned German cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm escaped to sea in the yacht Edgely, sailors and officers of the Kronprinz and the Prince Elect Friedrich will be permitted to come ashore to-morrow.

They will attend religious services in Norfolk and Portsmouth. Reservation has been made to seat 200 of the interned Germans in St. Paul's Catholic Church, Portsmouth, at the 10 o'clock service to-morrow morning. The men will be accompanied by American officers and bluejackets.

MIDVALE ABSORBS BIG PLANT.

Poole Engineering Co. With \$17,000,000 Contract, Taken In.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—All the preliminaries have been practically completed for the absorption of the Poole Engineering Company by the Midvale Steel Company.

Information available as to the deal is that a large and powerful syndicate in New York, composed of several of the biggest steel and banking men in the United States, secured some days ago an option on Poole stock. The belief is that the syndicate has offered \$12,000,000 and is controlled by President S. Proctor Brady of the Poole company and associates.

The remaining \$1,000,000 of the stock was underwritten three weeks ago and sold to local investors, save a good sized block, which went to a New York syndicate.

The option has been exercised, it is understood, and the control of the big company, now at work on \$17,000,000 worth of war orders, will pass into new hands.

As a result of the deal the new stock of the company, which was issued about three weeks ago at 95, went to-day in the Baltimore exchange to 137 and on the curb to 150. It is at the latter figure that President Brady is said to have disposed of his interest.

The company has had a rapid growth within a year from a plant employing 200 men to one now having 3,500 employees, all of whom have received as a Christmas gift a bonus of 7 per cent.

SOCIALISTS DISCUSS PEACE.

All Belligerents Except Italy Represented in Hague Meeting.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Dec. 24.—Under the direction of the Dutch delegates from the International Socialist Bureau, a conference of prominent Socialists from all belligerent countries except Italy was held at The Hague last Wednesday, according to the *Tribune*. The purpose of the conference was discussion of means toward a speedy peace.

It is reported that the talk of the conference was of an entirely provisional character. The delegates met at the offices of the International Socialist Bureau.

GREEK SHIP IN DISTRESS.

Thessalonika, With 300 on Board, Bound for New York.

The Greek Line steamship Thessalonika, bound from Greek ports and Gibraltar for New York, with 300 passengers, mostly Greeks, signalled on Tuesday that she was in distress and needed assistance.

SEES PERIL TO NAVY IN LACK OF OFFICERS

Admiral Blue Would Have
Each Congressman Name
Three Middles.

CANNOT MAN ALL SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Every member of Congress will get an additional appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis if a plan proposed by the bureau of navigation of the Navy Department for increasing the number of officers in the navy is enacted into law. Calling attention to the fact that only 75 per cent. of the present authorized number of midshipmen attend the academy at any one time, Rear Admiral Victor Blue, chief of the bureau, in his annual report made public to-night, suggests that each member of Congress be given three instead of two appointments to the academy.

As another means of raising additional officers to man the ships building, those in service and others soon to be authorized, the report urges the enactment of a law which will permit twenty-five graduates of technical schools throughout the country to be commissioned annually for three years term of service.

The bureau, with equal emphasis, asks the passage of a law providing for enforced retirement annually of a certain number of officers above the grade of junior Lieutenant, to prevent stagnation in promotion to upper grades. With the abolition of the plucking board last year the report says that the upper grades are becoming so choked and chances of promotion so slim that officers are beginning to resign from the navy in despair. Twenty-two officers have thus left the service since July, 1914.

More Officers Essential.

Regarding the proposed method of increasing the number of officers in the lower grades, the report says: "The output of the Naval Academy for the past two years has supplied the losses due to casualties and retirement, increased the number at the rate of 120 a year. This rate of increase, however, will not supply the demand."

The authorization of new vessels will require still more officers. In the event of war under present conditions the best that could be done would be to detail regular officers as far as the number would permit, to the most important ships, and assign officers of the naval militia and volunteer officers to less important ones.

Under existing law (including two appointments for each Senator and each member of the House of Representatives) 1,189 men may be maintained at the academy. It has been the experience, however, that owing to failures physically and mentally, an average of 500 begin the course each year and about 350 maintain it throughout the year. In other words, the number maintained at the academy is only 150 per cent. less than the authorized number.

Total Number 1,704.

If each Senator and member of the House had one additional appointment or three in all, instead of two, as at present obtains, the total authorized number would be 1,704, and the number maintained at the academy would be approximately 1,200, which is its full capacity.

The bureau recommends that this question be considered with a view to asking Congress for the increase indicated. In considering another course of supply of commissioned officers to meet the present urgent demands of the navy, it occurs to the bureau that the question of drawing on the grades of technical colleges for men who have received degrees of mechanical or electrical engineer is worthy of serious thought.

The present system requires all line officers to perform deck duties as well as engineering duties. This is as it should be, for a ship is in reality a machine, and every line officer is an engineer to be an engineer. There is, however, a sufficient difference between the propulsive machinery of a ship and that of other departments, such as some officers, and a goodly number of them, devoting their entire time and attention to the same. This is a satisfactory condition of affairs, and the officers of the highest attainment in propulsive machinery design, which is to-day a problem second to none in importance to the navy.

SHOWS RIFLE PRACTICE NEED.

Gen. Mills Reports on National Guard Marksmanship.

Gen. Albert L. Mills, chief of the division of militia affairs, War Department, in his annual report for 1915 dealing with the condition of the National Guard of the United States, says that approximately only one-third of the force has had sufficient training in rifle practice to make them of any immediate value on the firing line.

"That the importance of preliminary instruction in rifle firing is not sufficiently appreciated in the militia," says Gen. Mills, "is shown by the small proportion reported as qualifying in gallery practice. Out of a total of 99,835 men only 21,019 are reported as qualifying."

As to the time it would take for organizations to take the field as an organized force in case of war Gen. Mills says:

"It is probably nearly correct to say that six months of very active preparation would be required to fit the militia as a body for encountering in the field a well-disciplined enemy."

The present strength of the National Guard is 8,705 commissioned officers and 129,693 enlisted men, an aggregate of 138,398. This shows an increase of 1,442 enlisted men over 1914.

Police Station Abolished.

Police Commissioner Woods yesterday ordered the police precinct at Whitestone to be abolished on December 31. The twelve policemen are certain will be transferred to College Point and the district will be under the Flushing precinct.

City Farm Colony to Have Band.

Joseph C. Flick, superintendent of the City Farm Colony on Staten Island, will organize after the holidays a brass band from old men inmates of the institution.

BRITISH EMBARGO TIGHTENED AGAIN

Even Casings and Sausage
Skins Are on New List of
Banned Articles.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Extensive additions to the list of articles embargoed by the British Government are reported in a despatch received at the State Department to-day from Robert Skinner, Consul-General at London. From time to time the British authorities have been shutting down on exports from British possessions into neutral countries adjacent to Germany and Austria on the ground that these articles might find their way to enemies of the Entente alliance.

To-day's announcement shows that British exporters now are prohibited from sending such products as pig iron, iron and steel melting scrap, bituminous of soda, bladders, casings and sausage skins, colchicum and other specified articles to any destination whatever. The embargo from Consul-General Skinner was as follows:

"Exports of hematite pig iron, heretofore prohibited to European countries, now prohibited to all destinations. Exportation of iron and steel melting scrap prohibited all destinations. Exportation of bituminous of soda, bladders, casings and sausage skins, colchicum and other specified articles prohibited to all foreign countries in Europe. Exportation of all vegetable fibres and yarns made therefrom, not including linen threads, as are not prohibited, to be exported to any destination, prohibited to all foreign countries in Europe."

MARCH ON CHINESE REBELS.

Government Troops Sent Against Tsai-Ao and Anti-Monarchists.

PEKING, Dec. 24.—Troops have been sent to suppress the revolutionary movement in Yunan, the southwestern province of China, under the leadership of Tsai-Ao, former Military Governor of Yunan, who is bitterly opposed to the restoration of the monarchy. The movement has only recently assumed serious proportions.

The latest advices indicate that the Government troops of the province have remained loyal. Thirty thousand soldiers, however, have been sent in from Sze-Chuen province, which borders Tibet. None of the neighboring provinces is affected.

GIVES \$125,000 TO RED CROSS.

Sir Edward Cassel Donates Earlier Gift to "Times" Fund.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.
LONDON, Dec. 24.—Sir Edward Cassel has donated \$125,000 (\$125,000) to the Red Cross fund being collected by the *Times*. He had previously donated a like amount.

The *Times* is endeavoring to raise \$1,000,000 (\$1,000,000) to be sent to the Red Cross fund being collected by the *Times* and is already within \$25,000 (\$25,000) of that amount.

Admission—Morn. Session 9:30 to 12:30. \$1
—Aft. Session 2:30 to 6:30. \$2 (Including Afternoon Tea)
—Eve. Session 8:30 to 11:00. \$2 (Including Dinner and Supper)

EXHIBITION BY ALFRED AND SIGRID NAESS
NATY'S MUSIC COMPETENT INSTRUCTORS.

PA. 103, WANTS SON WEDDED.

And George, Through a Little
Notice, May Do It Soon.

NEWTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—Charles Ashford Shaffer celebrated today the 103rd anniversary of his birth. His fondest wish is to see his son, George W. Shaffer, a widower in the late fifties, married again and well taken care of before he dies. George's chances are good for entering the matrimonial state, for, as the patriarch puts it, "George has the finest housekeeper I ever saw in my whole life."

Underlined, am in need of a housekeeper for myself and father. I wish a good, common cook, one who wishes a home for the winter or longer for medium wages, or if suitable would marry, between the ages of 20 and 30. I am a daily laborer, sober and industrious. To any lady wishing such a position, I will supply references in any amount, as I have lived in Newton for twenty years and have been a widower for three years. A Pennsylvania lady preferred. (George W. Shaffer.)

Mrs. Wright saw the notice and wasted little time in communicating with Mr. Shaffer.

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